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FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for year  
1953



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

C.H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

Robert Greenwood, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk

Mrs. V. Gray.

• • • • •



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The Chairman and Members,  
The Felixstowe Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Annual Report for 1953 which has been prepared on the lines of previous reports in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions.

The vital statistics for Felixstowe for 1953 are satisfactory and indicate a good standard of general health.

Infectious disease notifications were very few and were largely not of a serious type. The number of Tuberculosis cases on the register is much the same as in 1952. The death rate from Tuberculosis remains at a low level.

I would like to express my gratitude to both Councilors and Officials for their continued assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.



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## STATISTICS

### General Statistics

1. Area of District in Acres	4,281
2. Number of inhabited houses	4,717
3. Density of population - persons per acre	3.51
4. Average number of persons per house	3.19
5. Rateable Value of District	£168,084
6. Sum represented by Penny Rate	£670

### Vital Statistics

#### Summary Covering Five Years

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Population	14,330	14,680	15,200	15,210	15,030
Live Birth Rate per 1000 population	17.72	17.23	14.01	15.45	17.6
Still Birth Rate per 1000 population	0.34	0.40	0.46	0.52	0.53
General Death Rate per 1000 population	14.09	13.55	14.40	12.03	13.9
Infantile Death Rate (under 1 year) per 1000 Live Births	11.81	27.66	37.3	42.5	26.3
Actual Number of Deaths under 1 year	---	---	8	10	7



## LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	149	97	246
Illegitimate	11	9	20
			266

Live Birth Rate per 1000 population	-	17.6
Birth Rate calculated for comparison with other areas	-	17.4
Live Birth Rate, England & Wales	-	15.5

## STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			8

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population	-	0.53
Still Birth Rate, England & Wales	-	0.35

## DEATHS ALL CAUSES

	Male	Female	Total
	105	105	210

Death Rate per 1000 population	-	13.9
Death Rate calculated for comparison with other areas	-	10.8
Death Rate, England & Wales	-	11.4

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL & OTHER MATERNAL CAUSES

NIL



# DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	1	1	2
			7

Rate per 1000 Live Births - 26.3  
Rate per 1000 Live Births,  
England & Wales - 26.8

# DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			3

# CAUSES OF DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR

Disease	Male	Female
Prematurity	-	2
Congenital Defects	-	1
Broncho Pneumonia	3	-
Atelectasis	1	-
TOTAL	4	3





# CAUSES OF DEATH

Code No.		Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-	-
2	Tuberculosis other	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
4	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7	Acute Polioimyelitis	-	-	-
8	Measles	-	-	-
9	Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	-	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	3	5
11	" " lung & bronchus	1	-	1
12	" " breast	-	4	4
13	" " uterus	-	-	-
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10	7	17
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
16	Diabetes	-	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	19	35
18	Coronary disease, angina	20	20	40
19	Hypertension with heart disease	5	3	8
20	Other heart diseases	5	13	18
21	Other circulatory disease	5	-	5
22	Influenza	-	-	-
23	Pneumonia	4	1	5
24	Bronchitis	6	3	9
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach & Duodenum	2	1	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	-	-
28	Nephritis & nephrosis	-	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32	Other defined & ill-defined diseases	8	2	10
33	Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34	All other accidents	16	26	42
35	Suicide	2	-	2
36	Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-
	TOTALS	105	105	210





## COMMENTS ON STATISTICS

### POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for 1953 is less by nearly 200 than the estimate for the previous year. Although I have no direct means of **checking** this figure I feel that the 1953 figure is on the low side.

### BIRTHS

The Birth Rate increased to 17.6 per 1000 of the population in 1953. This is an increase of over 2 per 1000 a figure which was only surpassed by the post-war rise in 1948-49. The Still Birth Rate was much the same as for 1952 but was rather higher than the figure for England and Wales.

### DEATHS

The General Death Rate rose from 12.03 in 1952 to 13.9 in 1953. This, however, can be accounted for by the tragic loss of life in the Floods. Reference to the table of Causes of Death gives the break down of the mortality figures.

### INFANTILE DEATH RATE

Infantile deaths showed a small decrease and were comparable with those for England and Wales.



# MONTHLY TOTALS OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	10	40	31	64	31	8	1	-	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	5	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	15

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

### NON-TUBERCULOSIS

	Age in Years									Total 1950	Total 1951	Total 1952	Total 1953
	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65+				
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	1
Measles	2	32	44	99	2	1	6	1	-	44	371	20	187
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	-	2	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	14	2	2	15
Whooping Cough	2	9	5	10	-	-	-	-	-	16	8	3	26
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	6



TUBERCULOSIS TABLES FOR 1953

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulm	Non Pulm.	Pulm	Non Pulm.	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register on 1st, January, 1953.	37	13	35	8	93
Number of cases notified under Regulations for the first time during the year.	5	3	3	2	13
Number of cases restored to the Register having been removed in a previous year.	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to the Register and brought to notice otherwise than by primary notification.	2	-	-	1	3
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	7	4	3	3	17
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year.	37	12	35	8	92



REASONS FOR REMOVAL FROM T.B. REGISTER

Reasons	Male	Female	Total
Recovered	4	5	9
Removed to other districts	5	2	7
Died	1	-	1
TOTALS	10	7	17

OCCUPATIONS OF CASES ADDED TO REGISTER

	Male	Female	Total
Housewife	-	3	3
Bus Driver	1	-	1
Storeman (retired)	1	-	1
Child	4	1	5
Labourer	1	-	1
Airman	1	-	1
Foundry Worker	1	-	1
No occupation	-	1	1
Soldier	1	-	1
Clerk	1	-	1
TOTALS	11	5	16







TUBERCULOSIS RATE & TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE  
OVER QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Tuberculosis Rate per 1000 population	4.6	4.7	5.5	6.0	6.1
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1000 population	0.73	0.12	0.0	0.18	0.06
Total Deaths from Tuberculosis	2	2	0	3	1

HOUSING

Housing Statistics

Number of inhabited houses (approx.) 4717

Average number of persons per house 3.19

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
New houses built by the Council	48	56	76	63	88
Houses built or converted privately	13	16	9	24	67
TOTALS	61	72	85	87	155



## HOUSING

There is still a marked shortage of houses, particularly of the smaller type in Felixstowe and the demand for Council houses still falls far behind the supply.

Unfortunately the floods of January 31st dealt a serious blow to the housing effort as a group of twenty-six Council prefabricated bungalows were totally destroyed while a large number of other dwellings were rendered uninhabitable for various periods.

The problem of the sub-standard house is not a prominent one in Felixstowe as there is little property of any great age. Overcrowding however, due mainly to lack of alternative accommodation, does occur but not to any serious extent.

## FLOOD DAMAGE

In other sections of this report I have referred to the disastrous flood which inundated the low-lying Langer Road area on the night of 31st January.

The fact that some 850 houses were rendered more or less uninhabitable for a period placed upon this department a considerable burden of responsibility details of which will be found in the report of Mr. R. Greenwood, Sanitary Inspector. The effectiveness of the precautionary and other measures taken can be gauged by the fact that at no time was there any suggestion that the health of the community was in any way threatened as so often happens after such disasters.



## NEW LEGISLATION

### The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953

Came into force on 1st April, 1953. These regulations are in substitution of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927, and the Infectious Diseases (London) Regulations, 1927. They correspond with those regulations in requiring notification of malaria, dysentery, acute primary pneumonia and acute influenzal pneumonia, and in prescribing action, in conformity with the present working of the health services, in relation to certain other specified diseases.

They amplify however, the precautionary measures provided for in the revoked regulations against food poisoning:-

- (1) by relating these (instead of to enteric fever and dysentery, as formerly) to typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever or other salmonella infections (which includes the diseases previously known as enteric fever), dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning;
- (2) by applying these measures in general to persons shown to be carriers of these diseases as well as to persons suffering from them;
- (3) by preventing such persons (in either class) not only from continuing employment involving the handling of food, as formerly, but also from entering such employment; and
- (4) by enabling a local authority to authorise the Medical Officer of Health to issue notices in emergency, in order to check the spread of these diseases.

### The Cream and Use of Milk (Revocation) Order, 1953.

This order, which came into operation on 1st April, 1953

- (a) revokes the Cream Order, 1951, as amended, thereby removing control over the manufacture and sale of cream;
- (b) revokes the Use of Milk (Revocation) Order, 1945, and the Use of Milk (Suspension of Restriction) Order, 1951, and thereby removing the prohibition on the use of milk in the manufacture of biscuits, bread, buns, pastries, cakes, rolls, scones and other similar products, ice-cream, sweet-meats (including sugar confectionery and chocolate) and synthetic cream.

### The Salvaged Goods (Revocation) Order, 1953

This Order revokes the Salvaged Goods Order, 1948, which provided for the disposal of certain salvaged foods and soap.





# SUNSHINE AND RAINFALL

Month	Sunshine hours	Rainfall inches
January	38.3	.701
February	40	✱
March	124.1	.346
April	187.6	1.909
May	259.8	1.394
June	149.5	1.898
July	186.5	2.768
August	210.6	1.142
September	188	1.154
October	86.2	1.646
November	54.8	0.941
December	34.2	0.744

✱ February rainfall not recorded due to flood.

	1951	1952	1953
Average hours of sunshine per day	4.7	4.7	4.3
Total inches of rainfall for year	26.19	20.95	14.64

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.





FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1953

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

126 Complaints were received during the year.

109 Notices were served, 105 informal and 4 statutory,  
 (2 Public Health Act and 2 Housing Act Notices)

WATER SUPPLY

Reports of chemical and bacteriological examinations of  
 Towns water supply during the year are as follows:-

The Counties Public Health Laboratory  
66, Victoria Street, London S.W.1

Analysis of a sample of water labelled "Tap in Town Hall  
 Lobby, from Felixstowe Town Supply" received from the Felixstowe  
 Urban District Council on the 15th October, 1953.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance - Bright with a few mineral particles.

Colour	Filtered	Nil	Turbidity	Less than	3
pH.....		7.6	Odour.....		Nil
Electric Conductivity			Free Carbon Dioxide.....		5
		.....450			
Chlorine present as			Total Solids.....		300
Chloride.....		30	Alkalinity as Calcium		
			Carbonate.....		145
Hardness....	Total....	210..	Carbonate..	145..	Non-Carbonate.....65
Nitrate Nitrogen.....		6.6	Nitrite Nitrogen.....		Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen...0.000			Oxygen Absorbed.....		0.0
Albimunoid Nitrogen...0.000			Residual Chlorine.....		Absent
Metals.....	Iron.....	Less than 0.03.....	other metals -		Absent



This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is moderately hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) Roy C. Hoather

15th October, 1953.

#### SAMPLING OF WATER FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Fourteen samples of the Town's water were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, 11 of them in the course of investigations as to possible pollution of the public supply by the February floods (see page 27) All were satisfactory except three taken from a public tap at Felixstowe Ferry.

#### Felixstowe Dock Company's Private Supply

This supply is from a land spring and is piped about two miles to the Dock where it is sold to ships calling there up to an amount averaging about fifty tons of water per week. The water is abundant and the supply is chlorinated. Six samples were taken during the year and all were found to be satisfactory. Colour tests were also made from time to time to check on the amount of residual chlorine in the water.

#### Private Bores

Samples were taken from the following properties all supplied separately from deep bores:-

Girls' Boarding School  
Boys' Boarding School  
Farm Cottages, cowshed,  
and private school

Dairy using its private supply  
for dairy purposes.  
Block of eight houses supplied  
from private bore at Felixstowe  
Ferry.





One sample was taken from each of these supplies and all were found to yield water of good quality.

Fourteen samples were taken from a bore supplying a farm, a group of farm cottages and a cowshed. Six of the samples taken at the farm and one in the cowshed showed some evidence of pollution. The system was chlorinated and after further investigation the cause was traced to a water softener on the supply pipe. Fourteen samples were taken in all 7 satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory.

Samples were taken from four shallow wells supplying seven cottages, all were unsatisfactory. Two of the cottages were later connected to public mains supply; one severely damaged in the floods was demolished, a well supplying another two cottages was protected from surface pollution and the remaining sample was taken to ascertain whether any pollution had reached the well from the recent floods, but this was found not to be the case.

#### Extension of Water Main

Last year the Company's mains were extended under a financial guarantee from the Council to serve properties on Ferry Road between Old Felixstowe Church and Cliff Road. Nine of these dwellings and an Elementary School previously supplied by wells known to be polluted have been connected to the mains during the year. Two dwellings on this road have not yet connected to the new water main. One of them has a satisfactory supply from its own well.

#### HOUSING ACTS

32 informal notices and 4 statutory notices were served under these Acts during the year.

One Closing Order was made on a basement flat and one dwelling at the Ferry, seriously damaged by the floods, was voluntarily demolished after representations had been made with a view to making a Demolition Order.



## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Houses inspected - Public Health & Housing Acts.....	56
Re-inspections re execution of works.....	289
Drains inspected.....	91
Drains tested.....	18

## INSPECTIONS RE SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Bakehouses.....	24
Fishfryers.....	27
Ice cream. (Inspections and visits for samples).....	59
Dairy Premises. (Inspections and visits for samples).....	27
Slaughterhouses. (Inspections of carcasses).....	6
Butchers premises.....	76
Cafes, Restaurants, sausage manufacturers and food preparing premises generally.....	51
Food Poisoning investigations.....	11
Food Condemnations.....	87
Visits re water supplies and sampling.....	81

## INSPECTIONS OF PREMISES UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Beach hut sites.....	19
Keeping of Animals.....	22
Overcrowded and vermin infested houses.....	12
Refuse storage and removal.....	16
Camping Sites.....	105
Sanitary Defects and nuisances.....	88
Smoke observations.....	3
Septic tank installations.....	15
Sanitary accommodation (Sufficiency).....	9
Swimming Pool.....	0

## MISCELLANEOUS ACTS

Factory Acts.....	66
Shops Act.....	35
Pet Animals.....	4
Mosquito Control.....	12
Infectious Disease Control.....	11
Rodent Infestation (Agricultural land).....	4
Flood Damaged houses.....	379
Flood Damaged Drains.....	145
Food Hawkers.....	17
Inspections of food at flood damaged premises.....	23

TOTAL	<u>1888</u>
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## SHOPS ACT 1950

On the 1st August, 1952 the Council accepted delegation of the powers and duties of the County Council under Section 38 of the above Act, and are now responsible for lighting, heating, ventilation, sanitary accommodation, provision of washing facilities and for the taking of meals in shops.

No. of Shops Inspected	-	20
No. of Inspections	-	35
Notices Served	-	8

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

### Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number		of Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities, (Workshops)	28	14	2	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Factories)	78	52	5	-
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	106	66	7	-

Part 2 of the Table overleaf.



2. Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	Number of cases				
	in which defects were found				in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to HM inspector	by HM inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	5	8	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Sufficient	2	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	7	9	-	-	-



## CAMPING SITES

The number of sites licensed for camping under the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269 during the year is shown below:-

Licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings	Total No. of Vans thereon
7	230
Licences to erect vans on particular sites	Total No. of Vans thereon
5	5

There are three licensed caravans in the district for the occupation of persons with no other homes. The six holiday camping sites accommodate from 7 - 138 caravans. All our caravan sites have town's water available and three of them have water closet sanitation. The remainder have chemical closets emptied by the Council three times per week at the height of the season. These camps were all well conducted during the year and were not the subject of complaint at any time.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk and Dairies

There are four registered dairies in the district, three of them are dealing in designated milk. Licences for special milks issued during the year were:-

Dealer in Tuberculin Tested	-	2
Dealer in Pasteurised	-	2
Pasteurisers (Licensed by the County Council)	-	2





Designated Milk

No. of Samples Taken	Type	Results
11	Pasteurised	No. Satisfactory - 10 No. Unsatisfactory - 1
7	Tuberculin Tested	No. Satisfactory - 6 No. Unsatisfactory - 1
<u>18</u>		

B. Coli was present in 7 of the pasteurised milk samples. All milk sold in the Urban District is either tuberculin tested or pasteurised.

In addition to the milk samples 3 milk bottles were sent for bacteriological examination, 1 was satisfactory and 2 were unsatisfactory.

Total No. of visits to dairies - 27

Biological examination of Milk from farms in the Urban District

- (a) Number of samples examined.....4
- (b) Number found to contain tubercle bacilli....0
- (c) Number found to contain brucella organisms..0

ICE CREAM

There are 4 manufacturers in the district and 59 registrations for the sale of ice cream. Other premises such as hotels, cinemas, clubs etc., sell ice cream but are not required by law to register.





The following tables show the number of samples of ice cream taken and how they were graded in the laboratory.

Locally Produced Ice Cream

RESULTS	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Satisfactory	9	3	-	-
Unsatisfactory	-	-	5	-

Total No. of Samples - 17

Satisfactory - 12

Unsatisfactory - 5

Ices Manufactured Outside the District

RESULTS	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Satisfactory	3	2	-	-
Unsatisfactory	-	-	-	1

Total No. of Samples - 6

Satisfactory - 5

Unsatisfactory - 1

Coliform bacilli was isolated from two samples

Staphylococci was not found in any sample.



## MEAT INSPECTION

The five slaughterhouses in the district have not been used since the war except for the slaughter of an occasional householders' pig. 3 slaughtermen are licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

### Carcases Inspected during 1953

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	-	-	-	-	5
Number Inspected	-	-	-	-	5

No condemnation of carcasses or offal were made

### PARTICULARS OF FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Goods not Tinned or Bottled.

Commodity	Weight
Meat	789 lbs
Fish	56 lbs
Cheese	30 lbs
Dried Vegetables	24 lbs
Sweets	178 lbs
TOTAL	1077 lbs



Goods, Tinned, Bottled or Packed.

COMMODITY	No. of Tins Bottles, or Packets.
Soup	5
Meat	47
Milk	33
Fruit	236
Fish	3
Vegetables	5
Meat Pies	19
Fish Cakes	48
Fruit Pies	3
TOTAL	399

For particulars of food condemned as a result of the floods see page 27.

REGISTRATION OF HAWKERS OF FOOD

The Council by resolution brought into force Section 88 of the Felixstowe U.D.C. Act, 1947 which provided for the registration of hawkers of food and premises used by them for storage of food intended for sale.

The following registrations have been made:-

- (a) Persons registered as Food Hawkers - 8
- (b) Premises registered for the storage of food intended for sale from cart, barrow or other vehicle - 5





## FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

In 1952 the new Clean Food Bye-Laws were adopted by the Council. During the year 51 visits were paid to food preparing premises which included cafe kitchens, sausage manufacturers and everything from whelk boiling to sweet manufacturing.

In addition 24 visits were paid to bakehouses, 27 to fishfryers and 59 to ice cream manufacturers and dealers making a total of 161 inspections.

An investigation was made into one outbreak of food poisoning affecting five people. Samples of all suspected foods were sent to the Public Health Laboratory and the infective agent found to be staphylococcal infection of a ham cooked and stored at home. One case proved to be fatal.

Work consequent upon the February floods caused a diversion of effort from the general inspection of food premises as of other premises during the past summer.

### Number of Food Premises in the area are as follows:-

<u>Butchers</u>	- 14	Fish Shops	- 12
		(Fishfryers also dealing in wet fish	- 9
		Dealers in wet fish only)	- 3
<u>Bakehouses</u>	- 10	Fruiterers and Greengrocers	- 18
<u>Grocers</u>	- 30	Confectioners and sweetshops	- 20
Shellfish Boilers	- 1	Restaurants, cafes and teashops	- 50
Sweet and rock manufacturers	- 2	Licensed Premises	- 16



Premises Registered under Section 14 of the Food and  
Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Dairies	- 4	Ice Cream Manufacturers	- 4
Sausage Manufacturers	- 18	Ice Cream Dealers	- 59

Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises

Sausage Manufacturers	- 29	Ice Cream Manufacturers	- 37
		Ice Cream Dealers	- 22

There was no new educational activity in connection with clean food during the year and there is no Clean Food Guild established in this district.

FLOOD DAMAGE

On the night of the 31st January, 1953 an abnormally high tide flooded the westerly end of the town engulfing about 850 houses to depths of up to ten feet and causing the loss of 41 lives. The most seriously affected properties were under water from about five to seven days. A number of prefabricated houses floated away from their foundations disrupting water and drainage connections.

Immediate steps taken by this department to protect the public health were:-

Requests to the Water Company: To keep the mains full, even though the water ran to waste to prevent contamination by flood water pouring into the empty water mains: Step up the chlorine dosage to about 0.5. parts per million. Both these measures were immediately put in hand. Tests of residual chlorine and samples for bacteriological examination were taken at various points in the flooded area as the water receded and for some time after. In no case was there any trace of pollution of the town water supply and it was possible presently to reduce the chlorine content to normal.





As the sewage ejector pumps had been put out of action the sewers in the main road and in various side streets became choked and there was a danger of the whole system becoming stagnant and over-flowing into the streets. The only remedy was to pump the manholes onto the beach and with the assistance of fire brigade detachments this was done and the sewage washed off by the high tides. The above measures prevented what might have been a serious threat to the public health.

At the height of the flood, warning notices were put on 87 inundated houses that they should not be re-occupied without official permission. These notices had, of course, no legal validity and in a few cases they were defied. But they served a useful purpose when no one knew what would be the state of things after the flood water subsided, not only as regards the fitness of the houses but their structural stability also.

All flood affected houses were inspected from time to time and special measures taken to dry them out and release them for occupation. The R.A.F. by the loan of heaters and teams to work them did good service in drying out many of the houses and for others we borrowed electric convectors from the Electricity Board or lit coke braziers and installed them with our own labour. This latter proved to be the most effective method. Squads of volunteers cleaned and scrubbed the deposited mud from the floors and were issued from this office with disinfectant and also Tecpol detergent, a generous gift of which we received from the Shell-Mex Company.

The work of estimating the damage and making arrangements for it to be remedied was carried out by the Flood Assessors and the work of repairs went on throughout the summer.

Because of trouble with the drainage systems at a number of houses the drains of 44 houses were tested and completely relaid at 36 houses and partially relaid at 8 houses. This work was carried out with the very welcome assistance of Mr. Bedford, Assistant Sanitary Inspector of the Deben R.D.C.

A number of food traders were flooded and in the inspection of the stock of flood damaged food I had the assistance of the late Mr. Copperwheat, Assistant County Sanitary Inspector.

Certain classes of foods were salvaged and returned through the Ministry of Food Suppliers.





Particulars of food condemned and salvaged are as follows:-

Goods Salvaged during the flood and returned to the Ministry of Food suppliers

Commodity	Weight
Butter	244 lbs
Cheese	52 lbs
Margarine	677 lbs 8 oz
Cooking Fat	882 lbs
Bacon	410 lbs 8 oz
Sugar	1156 lbs
TOTAL	3422 lbs

Goods Condemned through flood

Commodity	Weight
Meat	244 lbs
Dried Fruit	224 lbs
Sugar	28 lbs
Salt	316 lbs 8 oz
Sweets	603 lbs
Dried Vegetables	22 lbs
Biscuits	9 lbs
Rice	136 lbs
Flour	870 lbs
Cheese	1 lb
TOTAL	2453 lbs 8 oz



Goods Condemned through Flood tinned, bottled or  
Packed goods.

Commodity	No. of tins, bottles, or packets.
Fruit	310
Vegetables	485
Soups, sauces & pickles	579
Eggs	720
Cereals	112
Stuffing & Flavourings	140
Baby Food	30
Milk	12
Custard & Blancmange	157
Puddings	20
Sponge Mixture	34
Sandwich Fillings	14
Pastes	31
TOTAL	2644

In addition a number of tinned and bottled goods were returned to the makers for re-labelling where the contents were known to be sound and not contaminated by flood water.



## PESTS ACT 1949

### Rat and Mice Destruction

Our present arrangements for rat destruction are that we give free treatment to private houses and charge for business premises. We receive from the Ministry 50% of the expenditure incurred in this service including time spent on surveys and inspections. It is now obligatory for the occupier of any premises to notify the Local Authority when it comes to his knowledge that rats and mice are living on, or resorting to, his land in substantial numbers.

The result of a survey of all farm lands, 14 in number, in the district is as follows:-

Number apparently clear.....	4
Reasonably well serviced by occupier.....	3
Serviced by the Council's Rat Catcher.....	6
Infested and occupier given informal notice to clear.....	1

This land when surveyed after recession of flood waters was found to be largely clear of rats.

183 complaints were received during the year all relating to minor infestations. Premises treated were:-

262 Private Houses

10 Business Premises

12 Council properties

The sewers were treated twice during the year. The first treatment took place in January when five areas were tested. There were 3 complete takes of bait. In August 10% of the sewers were tested and there were takes at six points. Rats in sewers are fewer than last year.





## SWIMMING POOL

The Swimming Pool at Manor House was not used during the 1953 summer season.

## PUBLIC HEALTH SHELLFISH REGULATIONS 1934

Whelks are obtained from Cobbold's Point and Shingle Street and are sent in considerable quantities to London. None is obtained from grounds liable to pollution. The whelks are cooked before despatch to market. Winkles can be obtained from the estuary of the Orwell where pollution is possible but they are not gathered for trade purposes.

## DISINFECTIONS

24 disinfections of rooms, bedding, etc., were carried out during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT GREENWOOD  
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

South Beach Mansion,  
Bent Hill,  
FELIXSTOWE

